



July 17, 2002

To the Academic Dean:

Please accept this invitation for your faculty to participate in a key part of the upcoming national conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists -- a poster session on a wide variety of environmental research and policy issues. The poster session, which will be held on Thursday, October 10 during the conference in the Wyndham Hotel in Baltimore, is always a significant attraction for the hundreds of working journalists who attend. Representing newspapers and electronic media from around the world, they look at the posted abstracts, talk to the researchers, and often base stories directly on these sources. Dozens of ideas that reach the mainstream media come out of these interactions, and this year the University System of Maryland and its member institutions are hosting the SEJ conference and have been asked to organize the posters and make this event a success.

We're asking for your help, by having your faculty bring their best new work to this non-juried, non-peer-reviewed gathering. Many posters will be based on research on the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed, but of course we want the session to encompass everything the faculty work on in the USM -- from the study of lead paint poisoning to appropriate land use to the impact of air pollution. Every researcher who participates serves as confirmation of the USM's reputation as one of the nation's newest and brightest leaders in higher education.

Please join me in welcoming the more than 600 journalists who are expected to attend the SEJ conference. Your institution's presence will make this a most memorable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joe Vivona'.

Joseph Vivona  
Interim Chancellor

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